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Letter dated 17 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement concerning the capture of Saddam Hussein issued on 15 December 2003 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy
to the United Nations

03-67054 (E) 231203

Annex to the letter dated 17 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement concerning the capture of Saddam Hussein issued on 15 December 2003 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the capture of Saddam Hussein as a crucial further step towards peace, stability and democracy in Iraq and in the region. He should now be judged in a fair trial, according to the rule of law, so that justice can be done.

The Union stresses the need, after this important development, for the political process in Iraq to move forward, with the widest popular participation, towards an accelerated transfer of sovereignty to a transitional Iraqi government and the establishment of conditions for economic and social reconstruction and development in the country.